

Application No. 10/081,580  
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

6. (New) A protein chip holding tool for holding at least one protein chip, said at least one protein chip including a resilient layer which has a number of holes arranged in a matrix therein and which is closely adhered onto an upper surface of a substrate, each of said holes being adapted to hold a predetermined amount of a protein test sample solution therein, said protein chip holding tool comprising:

5 a base plate including at least one substrate holding portion which holds the substrate and which is provided in an upper surface of the base plate;

10 a lid rotatably supported at one end portion of the base plate so as to be rotatable to cover the upper surface of the base plate, said lid including: (i) at least one resilient layer holding portion which holds the resilient layer, and which is provided in a surface of the lid that faces the base plate when the lid is turned to cover the base plate, at a position corresponding to the substrate holding portion in the surface of the base plate, and (ii) a plurality of openings which extend through the lid to expose the holes in the resilient layer held in the resilient layer holding portion; and

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a slide shutter which is slidably supported on an upper surface of the lid and which is slidable to open and close the openings in the lid.

7. (New) The protein chip holding tool as set forth in claim 6, wherein the resilient layer comprises a silicone rubber plate, and a plane of the resilient layer which faces the substrate is ground and flattened.

8. (New) The protein chip holding tool as set forth in claim 6, wherein the openings in the lid correspond respectively to the holes in the resilient layer.

9. (New) The protein chip holding tool as set forth in claim 6, wherein the openings in the lid comprise slits that each expose a plurality of the holes in the resilient body.

10. (New) The protein chip holding tool as set forth in claim 6, further comprising an operating member which is operable to slide the slide shutter to open and close the openings in the lid, and wherein when the lid is turned to cover the base plate, the slide shutter is coupled to the operating member to slide the slide shutter to open and close the openings in the lid.